

NO. 116.

In the piazza before St. Peter's at Rome stands the most beautiful obelisk in the world. It was brought from the circus of Nero, and is said to have been buried for many

ages. It was one entire piece of Egyptian marble, 72 feet high, 12 feet square at the base and 8 feet square at the top, and it is computed to weigh above 470 tons, and it is supposed to be 3,000 years old. Much engineering skill was required to remove and erect this piece of art; and the celebrated architect, Domenico Fontana, was selected and engaged by Pope Sextus V. to carry

was built for its reception, and the obelisk brought to its base. Many were the ingenious contrivances prepared for the raising of it to its resting place, all of which excited the deepest interest among the people. At length everything was in readiness, and a day appointed for the great event. A great multitude assembled to witness the ceremony; and the Pope afraid that the clamor of the people might distract the attention of the architect, issued an edict containing

severe penalties on any one who should during the lifting of the gigantic stone, utter a single word. Amidst suppressed excitement of feelings, and breathless silence, the splendid monument was gradually raised to within a few inches of the top of the pedestal, when it was upon a sudden arrested, and could not be got further; the tackle was too slack, and there seemed to be no other way than to undo the great work already accomplished. The annoyed architect, in his perplexity, hardly knew how to act, while the silent people were anxiously watching every motion of his features to discover how the pro-

an old British sailor, who saw the dimculty and how to overcome it, and with stentorian vigils he shouted, "Wet the ropes!" The vigilant police pounced on the culprit and lodged him in prison; the architect caught the magic word, he put this proposition in force, and the cheers of the people proclaimed the success of the great undertaking. . . . Next day the British criminal was solemnly arraigned before his Holiness, his crime was undeniably proved, and the Pope in solemn language pronounced his sentence to be—that he should receive a pension annually

These little facts stored up from observation can never do the owner any harm, and may some day be of great utility; and this story only proves the value of remembering small things as well as great ones, for nothing that is useful is too insignificant for a man to know, and there is no knowledge that has not its use.

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